



Cold Climate Housing Research Center

CCHRC

Fairbanks Nonprofit Retrofit Pilot

Award No. 01458

Quarterly Report: January 1, 2014 to March 31, 2014

Denali Commission Goals

1. To demonstrate bundling of contracts and efforts for audits, financing, construction, recommissioning, and monitoring.
2. To demonstrate whether energy audits are a good predictor of cost savings. To date, there is limited documentation on commercial scale energy audit results.
3. Test the theories and models in Fairbanks, Alaska where a successful outcome is expected and the margin for error is forgiving since the heat demand is so great. The opportunity for achieving cost savings is more likely than in more moderate temperate zones.
4. If successful in Fairbanks, identify lessons learned which could be deployed to rural Alaska communities.

Additional Partner Goals

1. Evaluate the potential to transition from a grant-funded model of financing energy efficiency retrofits in the nonprofit sector to a finance-funded model.
2. Evaluate the importance of filling capacity gaps in the nonprofit sector (and other sectors) as a means of effectuating energy efficiency retrofits through a finance-funded model.

Progress Report

CCHRC is progressing through its work plan for this pilot project. As of March 31st we had prepared and issued the application for nonprofits to use to apply to be considered for the pilot project. Applications are due April 15th (13 total applicants applied with a combined 15 buildings).

Project partners are working to identify funding for the second year of the pilot project, which will enable a second construction season, one year of evaluation of retrofits performed in the first year, and the ability to apply what is learned to test different approaches to achieving the goals of the pilot project.

During this quarter work began to prepare the application process for energy auditors to use to be placed on a preferred vendor list for use during the pilot project.

Major milestones in the second quarter include receipt of the applications from prospective nonprofit participants, selection of nonprofit participants by a review committee, selection of auditors for the preferred vendor list, completing energy audits of participating nonprofits, procuring bids for retrofit work, and presenting loan information packages to RCAC for their consideration.

Assessment of project goals will begin in earnest once these steps are underway.